



## NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

It has been a very exciting month; our Hallowe'en Disco was a great success. Many thanks go to Lucy and Sarah and the Friends of Duncombe who organised the event. I was most grateful to all the teaching staff who gave up their evening for our children.

We have had two outstanding productions that Duncombe Staff and children have taken part in.

### **Romeo and Juliet**

Our Year 5 children performed at the Shakespeare's Schools Festival at the Arts Depot in Finchley. Our children were the only Primary School involved and put on a wonderful performance. The Year 5 team deserves all the praise and recognition for this excellent performance. Our children were the stars of the show.

### **Schools Prom**

Our choir under the leadership of Alison Taylor were a key part in the Islington Schools Performance at the Royal

Albert Hall Prom. It was a huge honour to perform at the Royal Albert Hall and Islington's children shone! There were 200 children in the choir and over 100 musicians. Huge praise must go to the children and staff who made this such a wonderful event. I was really impressed by all the parents who made a considerable effort to attend these two events and show such support for our children and school.

### **Texting Service**

We feel our texting service is an exceptionally efficient way of keeping parents informed of what is happening at Duncombe. Parents occasionally are concerned that texts do not arrive. The reason is always that parent's numbers have changed or their phone text are full to capacity. Please keep us informed of any change of numbers. Children for whom we do not have up-to-date contact details, both telephone and address are not permitted to attend our school!! Please ensure we always have your up to date contact details and that you have space for incoming texts.

### **Duncombe's Brochure**

The new Duncombe brochure has been sent to

all our families this week. It is not a list of rules or staff names, it is a celebration of what makes Duncombe such a wonderful school. Please share it with your friends and family. Additional copies can be purchased from the school office.

### **Holidays in School Time**

All parents are aware that we do not permit any absences during school time. Only sickness is an acceptable reason for being absent. When a holiday is taken during school time a **fine** will almost always be issued. Parents of children for whom their attendance has been over 95% for the last 3 years and for whom other holidays have not been taken in school time during the last 3 years may be treated more sympathetically.

### **Stripes for Stroke**

We are pleased to inform you that we raised a total of £400.00 towards the specialist lycra splint for Stephanie, who had sadly suffered a stroke. A very big thank you to all who participated in this very worthwhile event. We hope to continue our links with Stephanie and will keep you informed of her progress.

### **Eid Celebration**

We wish a very happy Eid to all our children. We had a lovely Eid party on Thursday which was really well supported by both parents and staff. As Eid was on the weekend we did not permit any absences. We were delighted to have a visit from Hammid the Iman at Finsbury Park Mosque. He gave an informative talk to our children and was a marvelous advert for the Islamic faith.

### **Lateness**

We have an unacceptable amount of children arriving late for school and also being collected late after school. Could parents please be reminded that school starts at **8.55am** for **Juniors** and **9.00am** for **Infants** and that **school finishes for all our children at 3.30pm** with the exception of Nursery part time morning children who finish at 12.00 pm

### **Reception Class Places at Duncombe for September 2012**

All parents of children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008, who require a place in our Reception Class for September 2012, must apply directly to the Admission Section at Cambridge

Education@Islington. Unfortunately we are no longer permitted to receive applications made directly to the school.

### **Christmas Events**

Please find attached a copy of the events taking place during December at Duncombe. Please note concerts for Year groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take place during the Spring and Summer terms.

### **Christmas Dinner**

The school traditional Christmas dinner for children will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and the MacDonald's style lunch will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011. If your child usually has a packed lunch and you would like them to have either or both of the above then please inform Theresa in the school office ASAP.

### **Celebrations in School**

Duncombe's community and its celebration of Christian, Muslim and many other religious festivals is a leading light in Islington. The way our parents and children from all different backgrounds come together at these festivals to share an understanding and celebrate this diversity is quite inspirational. There is an expectation on all of us

that we partake in these celebrations; it is not possible to pick and choose. For instance one cannot opt out of our Christmas celebration of the nativity and then expect to be included in the celebration of Christmas in a party. I would like to make it very clear that we will expect you to collect your child from school when these events go on if you are making the decision to opt out, as everyone will be involved and there will not be staff available to mind individual children. To ensure that our community at Duncombe is truly multicultural and tolerant please encourage your child to join in the full range of both religious and non religious celebrations at our school.

### **Uniform Shop**

Our next Uniform Shop will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 from 9.00 am until 10.00 am

### **Christmas Break**

Advanced notification that we break up for the Christmas holiday on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at the usual time of 3.30pm. Children will return to school on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**